

**NOAA Fisheries Team Member of the Year Nomination  
Cover Sheet  
Date: 3/11/2014**

**Nominee: Teresa Mongillo**

**Ms., Mr., Dr.**

Ms.

**Nominee's Name: Last, First, Middle Initial**

Mongillo, Teresa

**Category**

☐ **Administrative/Support**

Compares to GS 1-10; WG and Pay Band Equivalents

☐ **Administrative/Support**

Compares to GS 11-15; WG and Pay Band Equivalents

☒ **Programmatic: Scientific/Technical**

Compares to GS 1-10; WG and Pay Band Equivalents

☐ **Programmatic: Scientific/Technical**

Compares to GS 11-15; WG and Pay Band Equivalents

**Position Title:**

Biologist

**"Compares to"**

Fishery Biologist

**Routing Code:**

F/WCR2

**Work Address:**

7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

**Work Telephone Number:**

(206) 526-4749

**E-Mail Address:**

Teresa.Mongillo@noaa.gov

**Nominator**

**Ms., Mr., Dr.**

Ms.

**Nominator's Name: Last, First, Middle Initial:**

Barre, Lynne M. (NMFS PRD) and Jeff Fisher (NMFS Area Office), Gina Ylitalo (NWFSC), Dawn Noren (NWFSC), Sandie O'Neill (WDFW), Catherine Gockel (EPA)

**Position Title:**

(Barre) Supervisory Marine Biologist

**Grade or Pay Band / Series:**

ZP IV

**Relationship to Nominee:**

Project Officer, Coworkers, State and Federal Partners

**Work Address:**

7600 Sand Point Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

**Work Telephone Number:**

(206) 526-4745

**E-Mail Address:**

Lynne.Barre@noaa.gov

# NOAA Fisheries Team Member of the Year Nomination

## Narrative

Nominee's Name: Last, First, Middle:

Nomination Category:

Mongillo, Teresa

Programmatic: Scientific/Technical Compares to GS 1-10;  
WG and Pay Band Equivalents

**Address at Least One of the Following Factors in the Justification Below.**

**Contributions to NOAA and NOAA Fisheries programs that resulted in:**

- Enhanced economic viability of commercial and/or recreational fishing;
- Enhanced public appreciation for the mission of the agency;
- Enhanced safety or health of NOAA Fisheries workforce;
- Enhanced morale of the NOAA Fisheries workforce or inspired excellence in its members;
- Enhanced stewardship of NOAA Fisheries protected/managed species/associated habitats;
- Improved accuracy, reliability, or reproducibility of scientific results;
- Improved customer service;
- Increased efficiency and/or reduced cost of operations;
- Improved equal employment opportunity or diversity in NOAA Fisheries;
- Strengthened ties to other NOAA elements or NOAA Fisheries constituents; and/or
- Brought unusual credit to the NOAA Fisheries or members of its workforce.

With technical skill and enthusiasm Teresa has taken steps forward in enhancing the stewardship of endangered Southern Resident killer whales. She is dedicated to NOAA's stewardship mission, inspires others, and has strengthened ties internally and with partners. Teresa has applied her specific expertise on contaminants in protected species to help implement actions in the Recovery Plan for Southern Resident killer whales. Last year, Teresa made progress through working on three main projects- 1) organizing an internal NOAA workshop on persistent bioaccumulative toxins (PBTs), 2) drafting a Technical Memorandum on contaminants and killer whales with coauthors from our science center, and 3) coordinating multi-disciplinary work groups and a policy forum on impacts of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) on Puget Sound and Southern Resident killer whales in partnership with EPA. Each of these projects helped improve our use of accurate scientific results, identified ways to address uncertainty and data gaps, and also strengthened ties to other divisions, agencies, and constituents.

The internal PBT workshop brought scientists and managers together to present and discuss the current state of our knowledge, approaches to exposure analyses conducted in ESA consultations, information needs and uncertainties, and next steps for applying standardized methods. The workshop was organized by Teresa and Jeff Fisher, coordinating between Protected Resources and the Habitat Conservation Divisions, and was well attended by both divisions and by the Northwest Fisheries Science Center. The diverse presentations set the stage for an open and frank discussion about how we address potential impacts from PBTs in consultations on marine mammals and fish, and generated ideas for making improvements.

To support the ESA recovery program for Southern Residents, Teresa identified a need to bring all of the existing information about contaminants and killer whales together into one useful resource document. She took the initiative to draft an outline of a Tech Memo, contacted colleagues at the NWFSC and WDFW, including Gina Ylitalo, Dawn Noren, and Sandie O'Neill, to collaborate on the project, and has brought all of the pieces together into a comprehensive review that will inform section 7 consultations and other recovery actions moving forward. While not yet published, Teresa has made significant progress on the Memo which often takes a back seat to pressing projects with statutory deadlines.

Perhaps the most challenging project with the biggest scope was the joint effort with Catherine Gockel at EPA to explore the potential effects of PBDEs on Southern Resident killer whales and Puget Sound. Working together Teresa and Catherine brought multi-disciplinary groups together to examine specific topics. They tackled tough questions and brought together top experts from several fields to share their expertise and develop a report based on accurate and reliable scientific information. The results from the technical groups were presented at a policy forum for local agency and organization leaders and Teresa and Catherine have followed up on the recommendations from the process. One outcome of this effort is a recommendation for consistent monitoring of PBDEs that is prioritized, coordinated, efficient, and provides information to support NOAA and action agencies in meeting requirements under the ESA.

Teresa is a wonderful colleague, a valued program asset, a pleasure to work with, and an excellent addition to our team. Her positive attitude and commitment to stewardship of endangered species comes through in interactions with NOAA colleagues, partners and constituents. Her scientific skills and curiosity have enhanced every project that she has tackled. Teresa's friendly personality and professional approach have helped her make contacts quickly and easily, promoting teamwork and enhancing the morale of those around her.